



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEBB CITY BUSINESS OWNER CHARGED WITH DESTROYING HIS BUSINESS BY FIRE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Webb City, Mo., businessman was charged in a criminal complaint today with starting a fire that destroyed his business.

Keith Erwin McBride, 50, of Duenweg, Mo., was charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court this afternoon in Springfield.

The criminal complaint alleges that **McBride** maliciously damaged and destroyed the building housing the business known as Coin Op, located at 302 W. Fourth St., in Webb City, Mo., on April 14, 2005. The criminal complaint alleges that **McBride** destroyed the building by means of fire.

McBride owns and operates the Coin Op, which is in the amusement machine business. The building that was destroyed by fire houses office, retail sales and storage space for the business. Coin Op leases amusement machines to various businesses in Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, three firefighters were injured during their efforts to suppress the fire. Fire investigators reported that there was an odor of gasoline in and around the business, the affidavit states.

McBride's residence also was destroyed by fire earlier the same morning, according to the affidavit.

Later in the day, law enforcement officers located **McBride** at a warehouse in Webb City, Mo. At that time, **McBride** displayed a handgun and a stand-off ensued, the affidavit states. A police negotiator talked with **McBride** for several hours and law enforcement officers later

inserted tear gas into the warehouse, took **McBride** into custody and recovered a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol, according to the affidavit.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the criminal complaint is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal grand jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Deputy U.S. Attorney Mike Jones. The case was investigated by the Webb City, Mo., Police Department, the Joplin, Mo., Police Department, the Missouri State Fire Marshall and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow